

17

LETTER

Concerning the

Committee of Secresy.

LETTER



Countess of

A
LETTER
Concerning the *Ex-Ant. Commons, Ho*
COMMITTEE
OF
SECRESY.

FROM
A Gentleman in TOWN
TO HIS
Friend at OXFORD.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. Roberts, at the Oxford-
Arms in Warwick-Lane. 1715.

(Price Six Pence.)

LETTER

Concerning the

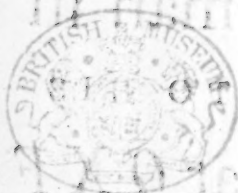
COMMITTEE

OF

SECRECY

FROM

A Gentleman in Town



Printed at G. & J. O. R. D.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. Roberts, at the Oxford

House in Warwick Lane. 1715

(Price Six Pence.)

A

LETTER, &c.

S I R,

I Received yours, in which you tell me Sir G — W — gave you to understand in his last, that it was not only his Opinion, but even that of the Generality, That the *Secret Committee* would not proceed in their Enquiries into the Conduct of the late Ministry, they finding it impossible to prove any notorious Crimes upon them.

It has, I am very sensible, been industriously insinuated, by those who defend the late wicked Transactions of publick Affairs, That the Crimes laid to the Charge

Charge of the last Ministry, cannot be made out; nay further, not a few have impudently dared to affirm, That supposing at last they should be Arraigned and Condemned by the Commons of *Great-Britain* in Parliament assembled, yet the Number and the Power of their Friends is such, that not the *Tower* itself, tho' never so numerously garrison'd, should be strong enough to detain them Prisoners. This is the Boast of our Frenchified Party; this is the Language of our debauch'd, infatuated Mob: But let me tell you, Sir, neither the false Hopes of the one, nor the bold Assurances of the other, are able to byass so much as a Thought of any of those Noble Patriots, who are indefatigably labouring to retrieve the Glory of their bleeding Country, and make it once again the Admiration or Envy of the whole Earth.

There has not a capital Crime been laid to the Charge of the last Ministry, but what in a very few Days will be set in the strongest and the plainest Light.

It will too evidently be proved upon them, that they were the Men who dissolved

solved the strongest and the best Alliance that ever was formed.

That every Step which they took during their whole Administration, directly tended to the Destruction of their Native Country, and to the agrandizing the common Oppressor of *Europe*.

It is madness to entertain so much as a Thought, that after this, there is not sufficient to prove them Villains and Traytors. The whole Posture of Affairs in *Europe* bare Record against them; the Power of *France* and the present Condition of the *British* Nation, are sad Evidences that they have been the vilest States-Men with which Nation was ever curst.

Religion, Trade, Liberty and Property were all upon the point of expiring; every thing which is dear to us as Christians, every thing which we prize as English-Men were by them Barter'd for Titles and Estates, to support their guilty Grandeur.

That I affirm nothing but what is Truth, be Witness *Mardyke* and *Bar-la-Duc*.

While

While *Utrecht* is nam'd in the Earth,
it will be as publickly known, that *there*
was sacrificed the Glory, the Wealth, and
the Liberty of *Great-Britain*.

Our Trade and publick Debts Day after
Day tell us they are guilty.

Spain and the *West-Indies* confirm them
Friends to *France*, and the worst of Ene-
mies to their Native Country. In short,
is there a place to be found, a Circum-
stance to be named, that does not con-
demn them for Traytors to their Sovereign
and the *British* Nation? And yet is it
made a Doubt, whether these Men shall
be Impeach'd? Is it yet made a Doubt,
whether these Men shall be brought to
the Scaffold?

Are we such tame, such senseless Crea-
tures, as to be sold and plunder'd? Are
we so fond of Chains and Bondage? Have
we quite given up our Spirits with our
Conquests, that a Thought can be enter-
tained by any, of acquitting the Men who
would have sunk us below the Condition
of the very Beasts that perish? They de-
serve not the Name of *English* Men, they
are

are unworthy to breathe in the Air of Liberty, who would not dye in the Defence of their envied Happiness, and cut off those from amongst them, be they never so great, who can be wicked enough to contrive the Destruction of a Constitution, calculated to make those who bear the Image of the Almighty (I had almost said) as much superior to the rest of the Creation, as the whole Creation of Man is superior to all irrational Creatures.

But to wave this, Shall the Clamour of a hir'd vicious Mob deter the Government from prosecuting and asserting the Justice, Honour and Interest of the Nation? What, Shall our Law-makers sit still and see their Country ruin'd, and not exert themselves in its Service and Defence, for fear of disobliging a Frenchify'd Party? Shall not Abuses and Corruptions be enquir'd into? Shall negligent, unskilful, or unjust Ministers, be protected in their Crimes? Shall the Majesty of *Great Britain* be Brav'd in the Execution of Justice? No, Sir, I can assure you, let the Party flatter themselves as much as they will, there is not a distinguish'd Criminal amongst the last Ministry that will not be

B call'd

call'd to an Account; there is not one whom the Insolence of the Party will save from justly Suffering. Of the Party did I say? Who are these mighty Men that bluster and make a Noise that they will support the Guilty? Why, only an infatuated Number of the High-Church Mob, headed by a few mad Jacobite Priests, Papists, and Nonjurors, a Number so inconsiderable and so contemptible, that I would ask but a Handful of Men, whom I would chuse out of his Majesty's Guards, entirely to disperse them, or cut them in pieces; and shall King, Lords, and Commons, stand in awe of such as these? Are these the Men who take upon them to censure and acquit Vain impotent Wretches, the very Scum and Shame of the Nation.

And now, Sir, let me ask you whether they do not in the grossest manner betray their Folly and Weakness who so much as give ear to what these senseless impudent Villains advance and affirm?

If you would know what Sense the best, the wisest, and the wealthiest of his Majesty's Subjects have, with relation to the Transactions of the late Men in Power,

er, read but over the List of the present Parliament, observe but the Addresses from all Parts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* which are presented to the Throne. And since I have nam'd Addresses, I beg your Patience seriously to peruse the Two following ones which I here send you. The first is that of the High Sheriff, Grand Jury, Justices of the Peace, and Gentlemen of the County of *York*, met at the Assizes held there in *March* last, and presented to his Majesty by Colonel *Nortcliff*, High Sheriff of *Yorkshire*. The Address is as follows.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's happy Accession to
 ' the Throne of *Great Britain* at
 ' so critical a Juncture is so peculiar an In-
 ' stance of the immediate Interposition of
 ' Divine Providence, that we shall always
 ' admire God's Goodness shew'd us on so
 ' great an Occasion, and endeavour to be
 ' duly thankful for it.

' Our Trade, Credit, and Reputation,
 ' were sacrific'd, our Liberties and Pro-
 ' perties expiring, and the utter Subversi-
 ' on of our most holy Religion manifest-

' ly threaten'd, by the Endeavours of a
 ' restless Faction, who, under Pretence of
 ' Zeal for the Church, Obedience unlimi-
 ' ted, and an inviolable Attachment to an
 ' Indefeasible Hereditary Right, under-
 ' min'd that Church they declar'd for,
 ' disclaim'd the Allegiance they ow'd to
 ' the Laws, and controverted Your Maje-
 ' sty's most Lawful and Rightful Title to
 ' these Realms.

' We now find the Effects of this hap-
 ' py Revolution, our Trade recovers, Pub-
 ' lick Credit flourishes, and those invalu-
 ' able Blessings of Religion and Property
 ' we at present enjoy are, under Provi-
 ' dence, secure from Foreign and Dome-
 ' stic Invasions.

' The Care Your Majesty has taken for
 ' the due Administration of Justice, the
 ' Concern You have shew'd for the Peace
 ' of the Protestant Churches, but more
 ' particularly the Church of *England*, are
 ' early and noble Instances of your Prince-
 ' ly Affection to these Kingdoms, and your
 ' steady Adherence to Your Resolution
 ' expressed in Your Royal Declaration in
 ' Council.

' We

' We beg Leave to congratulate Your
 ' Majesty upon the Choice Your Loyal
 ' Subjects have made of Representatives,
 ' by whom we have just reason to hope
 ' Your Majesty will be enabled to extricate
 ' these Nations out of those Difficulties in
 ' which You found them involv'd, to re-
 ' trieve their Honour from the Ignominy
 ' of an inglorious and secure Peace, and
 ' alleviate those heavy Pressures they la-
 ' bour under by the Mismanagement of
 ' the late Administration, which the In-
 ' terruption of our Commerce, the Pre-
 ' cariousness of our Navigation, the great
 ' Increase of the Publick Debts (tho' the
 ' early Provision granted by Parliament
 ' equall'd, if not exceeded, those of the
 ' War) make plainly appear.

' Our Fears thus dissipated, our Hopes
 ' thus ascertain'd, we have nothing now
 ' to wish but that Your Majesty's Reign
 ' may be long and glorious, and that
 ' following Your bright Example, Your
 ' Royal Progeny may bless these Nations
 ' till Time shall be no more.

The next humble Address, which
 I would recommend to your Consideration

tion is that of the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Grand Jury, Justices of the Peace, and other Protestant Freeholders of the County of *Galway* in *Ireland*, assembled at an Assizes held for the said County in *March* also 1715. The Address is as follows.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

IT is with the greatest Pleasure imaginable that we lay hold of this Opportunity, at our first meeting since Your Majesty's safe Arrival into Your Dominions, to express our entire Satisfaction, and congratulate Your Majesty thereon.

' We look upon your Majesty's Accession to the Throne as a second Deliverance from Popery and Arbitrary Power, which we had so near a View of, and we received it with that Joy and Thankfulness to God that was suitable to the Apprehension of our Danger and the Greatness of the Blessing.

' We had almost lived to see the Ends of the late happy Revolution, (brought about, under God, by the Great King
William

' *William* of Glorious Memory) and his
 ' invaluable Legacy (the Protestant Succes-
 ' sion) entirely defeated, and all those
 ' who were truly devoted to it, in Dan-
 ' ger of being made a Sacrifice to the Pre-
 ' tender and his Friends.

' Such was the Iniquity of the late Ad-
 ' ministration in this Kingdom, that in
 ' several Counties of it (particularly in
 ' this) Addresses to the Throne were by
 ' Management procured, to asperse and
 ' villify the late House of Commons here,
 ' whose never to be forgotten Actions be-
 ' speak them Men, whose greatest Crime
 ' was their Zeal for their Bleeding Coun-
 ' try, their bringing in a Bill to attaint
 ' the Pretender, and calling to an Ac-
 ' count that arbitrary Minister *Sir Constan-*
 ' *tine Phipps*.

' All things seem'd disposed by some in
 ' Power, to favour the Designs of the Pre-
 ' tender, and make us the easier Prey to
 ' our intestine Enemies.

' The Liberties and Privileges of our
 ' Corporations were struck at, and no
 ' Stone

' Stone left unturned to wrest them out
 ' of the Hands of those who were faith-
 ' ful to Your Majesty, and put them into
 ' the Hands of such, as (by their Actions)
 ' we had too much reason to fear were
 ' but Pretenders in Affection to your Ma-
 ' jesty's Succession.

' Our Courts of Justice were mostly
 ' filled with a Set of Men, some of whom
 ' had shamefully forgotten the Mercies
 ' they had received from the late Revo-
 ' lution, and others of more than suspected
 ' Principles.

' These, Sir, were our unhappy Cir-
 ' cumstances, when the Good and Wise
 ' Providence called Your Majesty to the
 ' Throne of Your Ancestors, by which
 ' we are made Free.

' From a just Sense then of our Deli-
 ' verance, with Hearts full of Gratitude,
 ' permit us, great Sir, to return you our
 ' humble and hearty Thanks for Your
 ' speedy coming to our Rescue, Your pla-
 ' cing such Persons to preside over us,
 ' and giving us such a Set of Judges, as
 ' have

‘ have upon all Occasions distinguished
 ‘ themselves for their Zeal to Your Ma-
 ‘ jesty’s Person and Government, and their
 ‘ steady Adherence to our Constitution in
 ‘ Church and State.

‘ And we beg leave to assure Your Ma-
 ‘ jesty, that whenever it shall be Your
 ‘ Royal Pleasure to call a New Parliament
 ‘ in this Kingdom, we will use our ut-
 ‘ most Endeavours to send such Repre-
 ‘ sentatives, as we doubt not will answer
 ‘ all the Ends of Your Majesty’s wise and
 ‘ gentle Administration, by making a strict
 ‘ Enquiry into our late Grievances, sup-
 ‘ porting the Honour and Dignity of
 ‘ the Crown, and enabling Your Ma-
 ‘ jesty to defeat the Designs of the *Pre-*
 ‘ tender, and all his open and secret
 ‘ Abettors.

‘ And when it shall please GOD to
 ‘ change your Earthly for a Heavenly
 ‘ Kingdom, may Your Royal Virtues,
 ‘ together with Your Crown, descend
 ‘ to his Royal Highness the Prince of
 ‘ Wales; and that there never may be
 ‘ wanting one of Your Royal Fami-
 ‘ ly to reign over us and our Posterity,
 C are

are the fervent Prayers and Wishes
of,

May it please Your Majesty,

*Your Majesty's most Humble,
most Dutiful and Obedient
Subjects.*

By these two Addresses only, not to mention many others which might be quoted, it plainly appears how sensible the Kingdoms of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* are, that our Trade, Credit and Reputation were sacrificed, our Liberties and Properties expiring, and the utter Subversion of our Most Holy Religion manifestly designed. But that, Sir, there may be no room for you, or any, to question the Iniquity of the late Men in Power, I will not only refer you to what His Majesty from the Throne has assured us, (*viz*) * 'That some Conditions of our present Peace, essential to the Security and Trade of *Great-Britain*,

* See His Majesty's Speech to both Houses of Parliament, *March 21*.

‘ *Britain*, are not yet duly executed, and
 ‘ that the Performance of the Whole
 ‘ may be look’d upon as precarious, un-
 ‘ til Defensive Alliances are form’d, to
 ‘ guarantee the present Treaties.

‘ That our Trade is rendred impracti-
 ‘ cable.

‘ That our Publick Debts are very great,
 ‘ and surprizingly increased, even since
 ‘ the fatal Cessation of Arms.

I will not, I say, only refer you to
 this most authentick Assurance of our
 unhappy Condition, but out of the
 Mouths of the Managers themselves make
 it appear, that their whole Administra-
 tion was one continued Act of Villany
 and Treason. They now † own, and
 in this they all agree, (though each are
 industrious to clear themselves of the
 Guilt of their evil Practices by condemn-
 ing each other) that the Ministry
 which preceeded them were unjustly
 displaced, and the Common People abu-
 C 2 fed,

† See the Histories of the *White-Staff*, *Mitre* and the
Curse, &c.

sed, by Misrepresentations and groundless Stories. They now own, that upon their Dismission, professed Jacobites were brought into the publick Administration, and that they had no more Patience to conceal their Intentions and Resolutions, to improve that Advantage for the Service of the *Pretender*, than they had to conceal their Joy at that Advantage: That they assured and boasted one to another, that their King (as they impudently stiled the *Pretender*) would certainly be restored, and that even by the Ministry themselves: That Measures were not only consulted by some of them to the Prejudice of the Protestant Succession, but even of the then Protestant Possessor, and that some Progress was made in that matter.

They now own, that Her Majesty's Ears were poisoned with groundless Fears and Jealousies, and that She was imposed on with Relation to the Church's being in Danger: That Alliances were dissolved, our Friends deserted, and a separate Peace concluded with our Enemy, in Breach of the Publick Faith, and in Violation of Her Majesty's Honour.

That

That the Treaty was a disadvantageous and a dishonourable one; and that all the Victories and Conquests of Her Fleets and Armies were of no other use to 'em that conducted and led them forth to Hers, and their immortal Glory, than to be brought as so many Arguments for their being laid aside.

One might be astonish'd now, that after such a plain Confession of Treachery and Treason by the principal Managers themselves, there should be any so abandoned and impudent, as to appear in the Defence and Justification of such notorious Criminals.

What? Are they innocent who have not only sported with the Blood, the Treasure, the Honour and Safety of their Sovereign and their Country, but also with the Interests and Liberties of all *Europe*?

Does the Laws of God or Nature require that Lenity should be shewn to those who at once defeated all the good Effects of a glorious and successful War?

Is

Is it agreeable to the Rules of Government or common Prudence, that they who made a willing Sacrifice of the Interest, Religion and Liberty of their Country should escape with Impunity?

• Are they to go unquestion'd who have render'd an Expence of above One Hundred Millions useles, and have given up all the Glory and Advantages of many Years unparallel'd Successes, to satiate their own private Ambition and Avarice?

Are they to be forgiven who were in League with *France* to destroy the *Dutch*, the Emperor, and at last our selves, by defeating the Protestant Succession in the present Illustrious Royal Family, imposing on us the *Pretender*, and with him every thing that is not only painful and shameful to be endur'd, but even frightful to the Imagination to be thought of?

Besides, we have had long Experience that Impunity for past Crimes is so far from begetting Repentance, that it is only improv'd to make Offenders bolder and more enterprizing; nay, at this very
ry

ry time we have daily repeated Instances in the Publick Writings and Discourses of the Faction, of the Truth of what I now affirm. Is not the present Mercy and Forbearance of the Government interpreted and reported as only owing to their Pusillanimity? Are not the most barefac'd Falshoods daily scatter'd amongst the common People, in open Contempt of Majesty and Authority? Is Virtue, Innocence, Honour, Power, Age, or Sex, any Defence against the false and malicious Tongues and Pens of the disappointed Party? Are not the most invidious Turns and Reflections given to, and made upon, the most common Disasters of Human Life? Nay, Are not the ordinary Works of Nature, and the natural Revolutions of the Heavens, by them interpreted, and most industriously instill'd into the Minds of unthinking People, as certain Prognostications of dreadful Judgments to these Kingdoms? And are these things in any Government, but especially in such as ours, to be endur'd and suffer'd?

In many of your Letters since the *Committee of Secresy* has been appointed, you
your

your self have writ me word, that most of yours from hence have given you Assurances that there would not be Matter enough found to ground an Impeachment on, or that in case there should, they durst not carry one up.

I would only now appeal to you, or any Man living, whether this is Language to be tolerated in any Government that designs to stand? Is this the way to Pardon and Forgiveness? If it were, I am sure our Happiness would soon be at an End, and we reduc'd to that miserable Condition which *France* and *Rome* has so long been conspiring to bring us into. But let me tell you, Sir, and on this you may depend, that the Insolence of the Faction neither does nor will make the faithful *Commons* of *Great Britain* so much as pause in making an exact, full, and impartial Enquiry into the Transactions of our late Frenchify'd Statesmen, but rather quickens the Report, and will hasten the Condemnation and Execution of convicted Criminals.

They must either be very impudent, or very ignorant indeed, that pretend
to

possible I will stay upon the ladder.

them had they not been Ministers of State, it is undeniably evident and reasonable, That imposing upon the Understanding of their Sovereign, betraying their Country, and sacrificing the Confederates in the Capacity of Ministers of State, is, and ought to be so far from being a diminution of their Guilt, that it is the highest Aggravation of Treason; and if so, tho' I pretend not to be in the Secret of Affairs, yet out of private Foreign Letters which I have now by me, I am perswaded I could bring enough to make good a Charge of High Treason against them; but from uncontestable Authority in a short time you will see, the blackest Crimes in the plainest manner proved upon them; and that, without any regard at all to the nonsensical and impudent Clamour of a prostituted hired Mob; who in the Day of Conviction and Execution you shall find tremble, and be as mute, as they were on the few publick Days of Justice in the Reign of that Great Immortal Hero, and our other Deliverer King *William* of Glorious Memory.

They

They have not now Ministers of State, and Men in Authority, to countenance or assist them in their Tumults, Disorders and Riots; but the Power both Civil and Military, is lodged in the Hands of those, who will employ it for the Preservation of their Country, for the Protection of His Majesty's Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, and for the severe Punishment of those, who shall dare to attempt, by any Methods, or upon any Occasions, to disturb the Peace and Tranquility of the Nation. Justice has hitherto seem'd to wink at their *British* Insults and Behaviour; but he that presumes to take a Step further, will find righteous Vengeance overtake him, and the Blow which he has deserved, no longer delay'd.

Let not any deceive, or falsely amuse you, the Day in which the Authors of our late Misfortunes will be brought to *condign Punishment*, is hastening on apace; their Faction is contemned by the Government; nor will the Nation any longer be braved and insulted by a Popish and Jacobite Party.

We know that Popery is, what it always was, a cruel, restless, inexorable Religion; we are sensible that there is nothing in the History of the Ten first Persecutions of the Christians, under the Pagan Emperors before *Constantine* the Great, which can equal the Methods of Conversion, that have been practised by *Lewis* the Great. Those *Lentæ Maxillæ*, as *Augustus* said of *Tiberius*, are more terrible than the quickest Violence, and the utmost Force: Men that could joyfully and readily lay down their Lives at a Stake, will faint in those Dungeons, Gallies, and Bastinadoes, under which, many illustrious Martyrs and Confessors have perished, and do still groan!

We are sensible that Confusion and Slavery, both Religious and Civil, must unavoidably be the Portion of *Englishmen* and *Protestants*, should the Designs of our Enemies ever take effect. I say, we are sensible of this, and therefore none but Traitors or mad Men will so much as move their Tongues in the Defence and Vindication of those Men who
were

were in League with *France* to set an Impostor on the *British* Throne, bred up in *French* Politicks, taught from his Infancy to look on us as a perfidious and rebellious People, and thoroughly bigotted to his superstitious cruel Religion.

It is not to be suppos'd we can be so wretchedly wanting to our selves as to suffer those whom Heaven, by a wonderful Train of Miracles has confounded and disappointed in all their treasonable Measures and Expectations, again to make head and insult us. We must be mad indeed if again we take those into our Bosom who we are sure would be glad of an Opportunity there to sheath their Daggers. But why need I talk after this manner? Have I not already made it evident that the Kingdoms of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* in general have too fresh and lively a Taste of their present Happiness, have too just a Value for their Religion and Liberty, have too full a Sense of the Miseries and Calamities from which Heaven and His Majesty have deliver'd them, not to demand the severe Punishment of those who would have made them and their

their Posterity Slaves and Idolaters for ever?

And where is the Party? Where are they Men that shall presume to contradict the united Voice of Kingdoms and Nations, so agreeable to the Laws of God, of Nature, and Civil Society?

If any Minister of State has been so base as to deceive and abuse his Sovereign, if he has been so wicked as to sell his Country, if he has been so cruel and unjust as to betray and sacrifice the Allies, is it not reasonable and just that he should be detected, exposed, and punished?

They, upon whom these Crimes are falsely charged, tho' for a while they may suffer in their Characters, yet their Innocence, by the Steps which are now taking, will be sure soon to shine out, and become visible to the whole World. And as for those who are proved to have been such vile and pernicious Statesmen, is there a Punishment which can be named too heavy and shameful for them?

Trea-

Treachery, Misgovernment, Proviſion, Corruption, and Breach of the moſt ſolemn Oaths and Treaties, are Crimes of too dangerous Example to be forgiven.

If thoſe, who in the Face of the World ſhall be proved to have Betrayed their Sovereign, their Country and Allies, ſhould eſcape with Impunity, Juſtice itſelf wou'd ſoon be named with Contempt, the Government regarded as impotent and unable to cope with powerful Iniquity. But let me tell you, Sir, Thanks be to Heaven, we are not under any Circumſtances that have ſuch a melancholy Aſpect; and let the Faction flatter themſelves as much as they will, they will find that the Age is not ſo corrupt as they imagine, and would perſwade themſelves it is; they may depend upon it, the Nation will not ſuffer Guilt to ſtand upon better Terms than Innocence. And tho' ſome deſperate needy Wretches may have had the Insolence to proclaim themſelves Enemies to their Country, by raiſing a Clamour againſt the Proſecution of the vileſt Traytors to it, yet you may be aſſured

fured the Nation will not suffer them to take a Step further, without treating them as open Rebels to their Sovereign and Country : And whoever they be that shall dare, by any Methods or Practices whatsoever, to attempt any thing in Opposition to the Laws and Power of the Land, will find that Power in an Instant effectually crush them, and that Law, with all its Terrors, swiftly overtake, and in the severest manner be discharged upon them.

I am,

S I R,

With great Respect,

Your most Humble Servant, &c.



F I N I S.

